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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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2 July 1964

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2 July 1964

DAILY BRIEF

Italy: [Prospects for an early reconstitution of a center-left government hinge on developments at the Socialists' central committee meeting beginning tomorrow.]

[Although Moro expects to be appointed premier-designate today, there is now increasing doubt that the Socialists can participate in such a government.]

[Party chief Nenni's supporters are planning a major effort to improve their position in the party at the expense of the faction led by Riccardo Lombardi which helped precipitate the present crisis. The strength in the central committee, however, seems almost equally divided between the Nenni and Lombardi forces.]

[It is also doubtful that the terms the Christian Democrats are expected to offer as the basis for a new government would be accepted by the Socialists, who would risk alienating their working-class following. The Christian Democrats have demanded that the Socialist Party "clarify" certain "inconsistencies," such as the charge by some Socialist leaders that the Moro government did not try as hard as it might have to implement reforms.]

[The party's decision will depend on how far it thinks it can go in accepting tougher austerity measures at the cost of social and economic reforms. The desire to avoid a further splintering of the Socialist movement in Italy will also significantly influence the decision.]

(continued)

[The US Embassy believes that it is unlikely that the central committee will give Nenni a clear mandate to continue cooperating in a center-left government. In this event, Italy seems to be headed for a long period of political difficulty marked by trouble stirred up by extremists on the right and the left.]

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Cyprus: President Makarios appears much worried by the obvious popular support for General George Grivas, the recently returned former underground leader.

The US ambassador in Nicosia believes Makarios finds himself in a difficult position due to the recent public demonstrations honoring Grivas. During the rally for the Greek general on 28 June, Makarios received a far less enthusiastic public reception than Grivas.

Makarios is concerned over what official position he should give Grivas. Makarios has privately noted that the role of "special adviser" to the President did not carry with it direct authority, while a position as commanding officer of the security forces would give Grivas a rather limited range of authority. He also mentioned the position of acting minister of defense-- one of two cabinet posts currently held by Polykarpos Georkatzis.

Greek Premier Papandreou's press statement following conversations with De Gaulle contains his first public endorsement of Cyprus' union with Greece. Previously he had claimed that if he advocated union, Greece would be accused of following an expansionist policy.

The Greek foreign minister has scotched press reports that Greek and Turkish representatives would meet in Geneva jointly with UN mediator Tuomioja, announcing that there would be no direct contact between Greece and Turkey at any level, "either in Geneva or elsewhere." He emphasized that Tuomioja should proceed with formulating a solution which in his judgment would be "correct and just," rather than one acceptable to all interested parties. Tuomioja previously has been reported favoring a solution based on enosis.

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[On Cyprus, UN officials report having seen two large antitank guns in Greek Cypriot hands. A senior officer of the Greek contingent on Cyprus has informed the US Army Attaché that the Cypriots have purchased several of these guns and other pieces of heavy artillery for use in coastal defense.]

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*Congo: The three leading members of the powerful five-man "Binza" group apparently are shifting their allegiance to Moise Tshombé.

The group, which controls the security and financial machinery of the Congolese central government, has long supported Adoula. On Tuesday night the most important Binza member, Congo Army chief General Mobutu, reportedly indicated that he supported Tshombé to head the transitional government which President Kasavubu must appoint soon.

[] Sureté Chief Nendaka and Justice Minister Bomboko also now back the former Katangan president.

If this new support remains solid, Tshombé appears almost certain to become premier.

Kasavubu, probably bending to these pressures, yesterday asked Tshombé to sound out different political factions on the formation of a new government.

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NOTES

Portugal: Humberto Delgado, the exiled Portuguese opposition leader, arrived in Algiers on 27 June after a six-month stay in Prague. Delgado, who has been permitted by Ben Bella to maintain a base in Algeria, can be expected to intensify his campaign to overthrow the Salazar regime. The Communist-supported Patriotic Front of National Liberation--the principal Portuguese exile group--is located in Algeria

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